

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06

OMB-01 SS-15 HEW-04 DODE-00 L-03 /084 W

-----231417Z 090063 /43

R 230400Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8077

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL UDORN

USMISSION GENEVA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

DEA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0761

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR PORG LA UN BU CZ HU

SUBJECT: UN CONCERN OVER LPDR ATTITUDE ON OPIUM PRODUCTION

1. CHEF DE CABINET SOUBANH SRITHIRATH, APRIL 22, REJECTED UNFDAC'S PROPOSALS FOR USE OF \$200,000 IN AID FOR 1977 AND DEMANDED THAT THE SUM BE USED IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN LPDR PLAN INSTEAD.

2. THE GOVERNMENT PLAN WOULD ALLOCATED \$165,000 IN UNFDAC FUNDS TO AN AGRICULTURAL WORK-SITE PROJECT PRESENTLY ACCOMMODATING FIFTY EX-DRUG ADDICTS. THE SITE, LOCATED AT KILOMETER 62 ON HIGHWAY 13 NORTH OF VIENTIANE, WOULD BE EXPANDED TO ACCOMMODATE APPROXIMATELY SIXTY FAMILIES OF EX-ADDICTS. THE GOVERNMENT
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PLAN WOULD ALLOCATE \$35,000 TO A CROP SUBSTITUTION-POPPY ERADICATION PROJECT IN THE MUONG KASSY AREA.

3. UNFDAC'S PROPOSAL WOULD ALLOCATED \$150,000 TO THE MUONG KASSY PROJECT AND \$50,000 TO THE KILOMETER 62 SITE.

4. FRED MACKENZIE, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNFDAC, CALLED ON ME AT HOME APRIL 22 TO EXPLAIN THE ABOVE AND SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO OBTAIN AN AGREEMENT WITH THE LAO BEFORE HIS APRIL 23 DEPARTURE, HE COULD NOT IN GOOD CONSCIENCE ACCEDE TO THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL FOR USE OF UNFDAC FUNDS.

5. HE ASKED MY ADVICE, SPECIFICALLY IF I THOUGHT THAT AN UNFDAC REFUSAL TO ACCEPT THE GOVERNMENT PLAN MIGHT RESULT IN A LAO REQUEST THAT THE UNFDAC MISSION TO LAOS DEPART. I EXPLAINED THAT THOUGH AN EXPULSION OF UNFDAC WOULD BE UNLIKELY GIVEN SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT TO THE LPDR FROM OTHER UN AGENCIES, THE LPDR WAS AT TIMES UNPREDICTABLE. I SUGGESTED THAT HE TELL THE LAO HE WOULD HAVE TO CARRY THE LPDR PROPOSAL BACK TO GENEVA FOR REVIEW BY HIS SUPERIORS.

6. MACKENZIE ALSO SAID HE WAS CONCERNED BECAUSE OF REPORTS THAT THE BULGARIANS HAVE SIGNED A PROTOCOL WITH THE LAO TO EXPORT LAO OPIUM FOR PROCESSING AND FURTHER DISTRIBUTION BY THE BULGARIANS. HE NOTED THAT THIS WAS CLEARLY ILLEGAL.

7. ON APRIL 21 HE HAD ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE WHO REPRESENTATIVE IN VIENTIANE APPEARED TO BE ENCOURAGING THE LAO TO PROCEED WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY FOR THE PROCESSING OF OPIUM INTO PRODUCTS FOR USE WITHIN LAOS. HE SAID THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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THE PLAN TO BE COMPLETED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE HUNGARIANS, CZECHOSLOVAKIANS AND BULGARIANS, WAS ILL-ADVISED BECAUSE THE LAO DID NOT HAVE THE MEANS OF CONTROLLING SUCH A PRODUCTION EFFORT THE WAY IT COULD BE CONTROLLED IN INDIA OR TURKEY FOR EXAMPLE.

8. HE SAID THAT THE UNCB BOARD HAD ALREADY WRITTEN A CONFIDENTIAL LETTER EXPRESSING ITS DEEP CONCERN TO THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT OVER THE REPORTED PROJECT.

9. NDRE SAENGER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF NARCOTICS, UN-GENEVA, SAID IN CONVERSATION APRIL 20 THAT HE WAS CONCERNED THAT THE WHO REPRESENTATIVE IN VIENTIANE, DR. LECLERCQ, APPEARED TO BE TAKING A POSITION FAVORABLE TO SUCH PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTION WHICH WAS CONTRARY NOT ONLY TO THE UNFDAC POSITION BUT TO THE WHO HEAD OFFICE POSITION. HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO REQUEST THAT DR. LECLERCQ BE CALLED IN TO CONSULTATION IN GENEVA DURING HIS HOME LEAVE PERIOD. HE WAS

ALSO GOING TO ASK TH HEAD OF WHO TO ASSURE HIM THAT WHO WAS SATISFIED THAT DR. LECLERCQ WAS OPERATING ON THE SAME BASIS AS WHO AND ENJOYED ITS FULL CONFIDENCE. IF THIS WERE NOT SO, HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO REQUEST DR. LECLERCQ'S WITHDRAWAL FROM LAOS.

10 SAENGER ALSO SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY CHEF DE CABINET SOUBANH SRITHIRATH HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE OFFICIAL LPDR POLICY WAS TO ELIMINATE OPIUM PRODUCTION. NEVERTHELESS, THE LAO SEEMED TO THINK THAT THEY COULD ACCOMPLISH THIS ELIMINATION AT A LATER STAGE WHILE IN THE SHORT RUN ENCOURAGING PRODUCTION BY THE MEO POPULATION. THEY SEEMED TO THINK THEY COULD EVENTUALLY ERADICATE OPIUM PRODUCTION BY RELOCATING THE MEOS IN THE LOWLAND AREAS OF LAOS. SAENGER TOLD THEM THAT THIS WAS IMPRACTICAL.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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